

grave, as was said by the old Indian chief of whom I have before spoken.

They would have made good and useful citizens, instead of being what they are now—isolated communities having little governments of their own, or shut up on reservations in a semi-civilized condition, and under charge of the government as wards.

They have shown themselves capable of civilized self-government, as witness the Aztecs in Mexico in early times, and the Senecas in the State of New York, the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and others that might be mentioned, of the present day.

As to those who have not yet entered upon a civilized life, there is no question that, with but few exceptions, their minds are filled with animosity against us; and as we cannot justly blame them for this, and as it is impossible to redeem the past, we must deal with them as they now are, having due regard to their future as well as their present good. Our judgment in determining what is for their good is much better than their own, and they must submit to it.

Those who are opposed to having their children attend school or receive instruction in mechanical or agricultural pursuits, must be compelled to submit to our better judgment in the matter.

I cannot too strongly reiterate my belief that it would be for the best interest of the Indians, no less than for the government, to make them citizens as soon as possible, amenable to, and protected by the same laws as the white citizen, with perhaps some